

## Message Text

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17

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O R 290410Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1382

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO EGYPT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON UK

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IRAN

COMIDEASTFOR

S E C R E T MANANA 0560

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, US, BA

SUBJECT: RETENTION OF MIDEASTFOR IN BAHRAIN

REF: STATE 163984

1. I CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER JULY 28 TO DELIVER NOTE AUTHORIZED AND TO MAKE POINTS CONTAINED PARA 1 REFTEL.

2. DRAWING ON PARAS 2-5 REFTEL, I DISCUSSED WITH FONMIN OUR DESIRE TO MEET BAHRAIN'S REQUEST TO PRESERVE CONFIDENTIALITY OF NEGOTIATIONS BUT POINTED OUT REQUIREMENTS FOR CONSULTATION WITH CONGRESS AND POSSIBLY TRANSMITTAL OF FORMAL AMENDMENTS TO CONGRESS, SHOULD FORMAL AMENDMENTS BE REQUIRED. FONMIN INDICATED UNDERSTANDING OF THIS PROBLEM POINTING OUT THAT GOB FACED WITH SOMEWHAT SIMILAR ONE SINCE IF ACTUAL TEXT OF AGREEMENT IS TO BE AMENDED GOB MAY FEEL IT HAS TO BRING THE AGREEMENT BEFORE THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. FOR THIS REASON HE FELT GOB MIGHT PREFER AVOIDING AMENDMENT TEXT IF THIS WERE POSSIBLE.

3. I SAID, WHILE I WAS NOT TRYING TO GET INTO NEGOTIATION OF JURISDICTION QUESTION WITH HIM, IT SEEMED TO ME THERE WOULD BE BETTER

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CHANCE OF AVOIDING AMENDMENT OF TEXT IF GOB COULD ACCEPT SOMETHING

LIKE JURISDICTION ARRANGEMENT WE HAD PROPOSED IN DEC. 29, 1973 NOTE. ADDED, THAT SINCE I WAS RETURNING TO WASHINGTON FOR CONSULTATIONS ON THIS QUESTION IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL IN EXPEDITING SETTLEMENT IF WE HAD BETTER IDEA OF WHAT EXACTLY GOB HAD IN MIND IN WAY OF JURISDICTION. FONMIN INDICATED THAT GOB HAD FOUND SOME PROBLEMS IN OUR DEC. 29 PROPOSAL. HE CONTINUED THAT BASIC FELT NEED OF GOB IS TO HAVE RECOGNIZED "RIGHT" TO EXERCISE CRIMINAL JURISDICTION. UNDER QUESTIONING HE SAID GOB IN REALITY WAS NOT INTERESTED IN HAVING JURISDICTION OVER "ON-DUTY" CRIMINAL OFFENSES BY U.S. NAVAL PERSONNEL. (ON THIS POINT I AM NOT ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN HE MEANS "ON-DUTY" REGARDLESS OF WHERE OFFENSE TAKES PLACE BUT MAY BE THINKING OF "ON-DUTY" WITHIN CONFINES OF U.S. NAVY FACILITIES HERE.) I ALSO QUERIED TO WHAT EXTENT GOB REALLY INTERESTED IN EXERCISING CRIMINAL JURISDICTION IN ALL "OFF-DUTY" CASES. WHILE FONMIN WAS NON-COMMITTAL IN RESPONSE, HE GAVE SOME INDICATION THAT IN FACT GOB MIGHT BE PREPARED TO WAIVE JURISDICTION IN MINOR "OFF-DUTY" CASES, BUT HE ADDED CAVEAT THAT THIS WAS A MATTER FOR LAWYERS TO DISCUSS. THEN HE STRESSED THAT THE BASIC PROBLEM GOB HAS ON JURISDICTION IS THAT IT MUST HAVE THE RIGHT IN CRIMINAL OFFENSES INVOLVING "OFF-DUTY" MIDDLE EAST FORCE PERSONNEL TO DETAIN AND INVESTIGATE WITHOUT HAVING TO TURN OFFENDER IMMEDIATELY OVER TO NAVAL AUTHORITIES. HE EXPLAINED THAT IN THIS RESPECT THE PRESENT JURISDICTION ARRANGEMENT APPEARS TO BAHRAINI OPINION AS EXTENSION OF EXTRA-TERRITORIAL LEGAL RIGHTS BRITISH EXERCISED HERE WHEN JUFAIR WAS A BRITISH MILITARY BASED AND BAHRAIN WAS UNDER BRITISH PROTECTION. HE ADDED, THAT WHILE BAHRAIN WOULD NOT CLAIM TO HAVE THE "WORLD'S BEST LEGAL SYSTEM", GOB IS PROUD OF EXISTING SYSTEM, SEEKING TO IMPROVE IT. AND OBVIOUSLY CONSIDERED LEGAL JURISDICTION OVER FOREIGNERS AN ATTRIBUTE OF INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY. HENCE IT IS IMPORTANT, HE CONTINUED, THAT U.S. NAVAL PERSONNEL "OFF-DUTY" BE TREATED JUST AS ANY OTHER AMERICAN, OR OTHER FOREIGNERS, ENJOYING HOSPITALITY OF BAHRAIN.

4. I HAVE ARRANGED TO MEET WITH MINISTER OF STATE FOR LEGAL AFFAIRS TO GET A MORE DETAILED IDEA OF GOB PROBLEMS ON JURISDICTION QUESTION AND HAVE ASKED CMEF HANKS TO JOIN ME IN THAT MEETING. I ALSO WILL BE MAKING COURTESY CALLS ON PRIME MINISTER AND ACTING AMIR PRIOR TO MY DEPARTURE.

5. PLAN TO ARRIVE WASHINGTON THIS COMING AMERICAN WEEKEND AND  
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BE AVAILABLE TO BEGIN CONSULTATIONS MORNING AUG. 5. FONMIN EXPRESSED NO PRACTICAL PROBLEM WITH PUTTING OFF VISIT OF LEGAL TEAM UNTIL LATTER PART OF AUGUST. HE ALSO ADMITTED THAT IN REGARDS TO "ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS" ABSENCE OF KEY GOB MINISTERS CONCERNED WITH THESE QUESTIONS REQUIRES THAT THESE DISCUSSIONS BE DELAYED UNTIL EARLY SEPT.

6. DEPT PASS DOD/ISA, CNO WASHDC, CINCUSNAVEUR.

TWINAM

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED DOD/ISA, CNO WASHDC, CINCUSNAVEUR.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NAVAL FORCES, FOREIGN RELATIONS, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, PENAL SYSTEM, MILITARY BASES, STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 JUL 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** boyleja  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** STATE 163984  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** boyleja  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 JUN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <25 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2003 by boyleja>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RETENTION OF MIDEASTFOR IN BAHRAIN  
**TAGS:** MARR, PFOR, US, BA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005